



## EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS OF DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR

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### INTRODUCTION:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar a social reformist and a great thinker. The writing of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar abounds in educational thoughts. He wrote numerous letters to his colleagues and to the dignitaries. He has delivered a number of speeches on several occasions. He has written a great many articles, reports and books. The presenter has tried to present Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's educational thoughts from his letters.

### Educational Thoughts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar revealed through his letters

He wrote a letter on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1913 to one of the friends of his father whose name was Shivanak Gonak Jamadar.

He has quoted lines taken from Shakespearean tragedy, Julius Caesar, to seize every opportunity.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men;  
which if taken at the flood leads on to fortune;  
omitted all the voyage of their life is,  
bound in shallows & miseries".<sup>1</sup>

Ambedkarji suggests through these lines that if a man did not seize the opportunity that arises in his life, there would never be progress and the man will remain indigent. The man should seize any opportunity whether educational or anything else, or he/she will lead life of degradation.

He further admits that we must now entirely give up the idea that parents give "Jamma" to the child and not "karma". Parents can mould the destiny of their children and if we follow this principle, be sure that we shall soon see better days and our progress will be greatly accelerated if male education is pursued side by side with female education. The fruit of which you can very well see verified in your own daughter" (daughter : Ganga Srivanak Jamadar)

These lines explain that giving Karma is superior to giving birth to progenies. Giving Karma means imbibing good conducts that is possible through education. "Let your mission therefore be to educate and preach the idea of education to those at least who are near to and in close contact with you"

Ambedkarji has requested Shivanak Jamadar to propagate the value of education among his brethren.

To him, education was the means or measure that was sure to lead the man to progress.

The implication of this letter is that one should seize the opportunity that arises for man, male and female education can uplift society and propagation of education among masses is very necessary.

B.R. Ambedkar wanted his colleagues to learn English as it is a link language and window to the world. Its importance cannot be ignored so he wrote a letter to Amrit Rao Rankhambhe (Teli : Amergorn, 240), 42 Clifton Gardens Maida Vale, London W.9. 11-12-1930.

"I feel it necessary to write to you that you should study English hard. I'm afraid that ignorance to English will be blockade in our social life. This fact is being ignored by you and hence I am suggesting you in this regard"

Dr. Ambedkar held the view that education plays vital role in social work. So he wrote to Bhaurao Gaikwad from London on 07-06-1933.

"It is useless to desire for the leadership unless and until one is cautious about his ability and significance of educational movement."

He says that absurd and impertinent things should not be carried out in the name of education.

"I want the depressed classes to concentrate their energy and resources on poli-

cies and education. I hope that they will realize the importance of both", so education seems to have been emphasized.

"I am worried about the appointment of the principal, we need a suitable principal. We don't need such a principal, who takes care for his job. Who is not earnest and who does not work for the welfare of the institution."

"Students should pursue their studies very sincerely. You have done a good thing, that you came to see me before leaving Delhi. I do not want victory at the cost of my students. You should return the ticket and do not come to Bombay for canvassing. You are conducting research for Ph.D. in Agriculture. which is very important subject. I wish, you should concentrate on your research. For your information, I tell you that, we have made good provisions in constitution for encouraging agricultural developments."

"Education is something, which ought to be brought within the reach of everyone. The policy of the department therefore, ought to be to make higher education as cheap to the lower classes as it can possibly be made."

### CONCLUSION:

My life is threatened if I came here to wake you up to the causes of your misery and shame. Man is mortal. Everyone is to die some day or other. But one must resolve to lay down one's life in enriching the noble ideas of self-respect and in bettering human life. We are not slaves. We are a warrior clan. Nothing is more disgraceful for a brave man than to live a life devoid of self-respect and without love for the country.

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